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The Cultural Impact of Michael Jackson

To write about Michael Jackson is to stand upon a mountain of press clips and pretend they do not exist (Nelson George, 2010, p. 6). Michael Jackson was born in August 29, 1958. He was the seventh child of Joe and Katherine Jackson. Together with his brothers, they formed the Jackson 5, a musical group that took America by storm in the 1970’s and 1980’s. Michael Jackson was the epitome of talent. As described by (Nelson George, 2010, p. 2) when the Jackson 5 takes the stage, the piecing screams of teenage girls fill the garden. Michael moves swiftly across the stage, a little dynamo who reminds me of Mighty Mouse, the hyperactive Saturday morning cartoon that I love. From his physic as a child, to his voice and his moves, everyone seemed to be in love with this adorable young boy.

Michael Jackson enjoyed a successful career into his adult life that led to him becoming one of the favorite artists in the world. People from all nations felt the cultural impact of his music. Many families decided to dream big, as they had a role model they could look up to. The Jackson brothers as well as their parents, Joe and Katherine, represent our potential and dreams. If they could emerge from the working-class slum of Gary, Indiana, so might my family escape public housing in Brooklyn (Nelson George, 2010, p. 2). Michael Jackson is described as the most influential artist of the 20th century. His performance would electrify a live audience and his songs greatly influenced artists who were trying to start their music careers. However, he also attracted negativity on how he lived and how his character influenced the society.

Some people have described Michael Jackson as a tragic figure. It is believed that his problems were because of the childhood trauma he experienced. According to Nelson, Michael blamed his bad childhood experience on his father. My father was real strict with us - real strict (Nelson George, 2010, p. 23). Although Michael loved to perform, it was a lot of work for a young boy, and later, Michael often said he felt he had missed out on a normal childhood (Jennifer Joline Anderson, 2011, p. 15). He seemed to have committed his life into pursuing a creative ideal of a person. This led to his addiction to various vices such as drug abuse and showbiz plastic surgery that saw him try to blend in all sorts of features including being a black and white, male and female, adult and child into one person. He seemed to be trapped in the ideal world of never growing old and this eventually destroyed him. Jackson’s friendship with children led to the greatest controversies in his life. In 1993, he was accused of sexually molesting a 13-year-old boy who had spent time at Neverland ranch (Jennifer Joline Anderson, 2011, p. 20).

I believe Michael Jackson was a great talented artist who deserves credit for what he did. The fact that he dominated the pop music charts since the 1970’s shows that he had talent that was unmatched. Although his later years were characterized by one controversy after another, Michael was a legend. He inspired many people all over the world. His songs left an impact and they are still being played and toping the charts years after he is gone. It is important to give credit where it is due, thus saying Michael Jackson is the greatest pop singer that ever lived is recognizing a force that took the music world by storm. Michael Jackson had far more cultural impact on the20th century musical scene than any other artist in that time. Despite controversy later in his life, Jackson is remembered as a talented artist (Jennifer Joline Anderson, 2011, p. 23).

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